

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 of the specification as amended in the January 7, 2003 submission to read as follows:

FIG 2 shows the adhesive reinforcement stiffening strip **2** seated on the surface of the open structure **5** of the elastic tape **1**. Its extensions **8** have penetrated the loose portion **5** of the elastic tape and solidly adhere to it. The stiffening strip in this embodiment is a homogenous mass, preferably an adhesive, and is applied in strips transversely to the longitudinal direction **L** of the tape **1**. When the homogenous mass is applied, it makes a solid connection with the tape, and then obtains its required solidity by means of a curing process. The adhesive can be one which cures in a period of time sufficient for production and can be one which is well tolerated when in contact with the human skin. The adhesive may, further, be a 2-component adhesive, may cure through the action of UV radiation, or may cure by means of a temperature change. One of skill in the art may glean further advantages and characteristics of the invention from the drawings and the associated description given above. A preferred adhesive is Loctite[®] 3321 (Henkel Loctite Corporation, Rocky Hill, Connecticut) Loctite 3321, a one-component UV-curable acrylate adhesive, which is applied in liquid form and contains optical initiators. When this adhesive is radiated under blue light or exposed to UV radiation, the activation of the optical initiators starts the curing process.